



The Hiester Herald

Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Compatriots,

At an Eagle Scout Court of Honor dinner last Saturday night I sat next to the honoree's mother. During the conversation she asked me the questions "Who are the Sons of the American Revolution? What do you do?" She wasn't even aware there was such an organization in Berks County or anywhere else for that matter. This is not unusual. I hear those questions frequently. I respond by explaining I am a descendent of a Revolutionary War patriot and the goals of the SAR are to promote patriotism, preserve history and encourage young people by our scholarship programs. The conversation will turn to family history. I find many in Berks County know their lineage and could be eligible for membership. If I could inspire those I talk to our membership would be 150 instead of 50. Our membership is growing and perhaps one day we will see 150. It won't happen if we fail to encourage men to join our ranks.

Several E-mails on SAR-Talk referred to the declining membership of SAR that prompted Headquarters Dispatch Editor, Donald N. Moran to respond. Referring to his chapter he states his "*Membership is growing, slowly, but growing. The increase in admission fees will result in high retention...retention is as important as is recruitment. Liberty Chapter's Color Guard has been a major recruiting tool - and has attracted younger men. As of this writing we have 38 applications in the mill?*" Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter could easily have 38 applications in the mill. I know I have four relatives who are eligible and somewhat interested. I just have to take the time to talk with them, gather the information and submit the application. I would guess that each one of you has cousins, children or grandchildren who should be recruited. It just takes time and commitment.

This month turn to your yellow Constitution and By-Laws booklet. Read pages 4 and 5. Commit yourself to the purposes of our organization. "Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

March 11th (Thursday evening) Cocktails at 6 pm (Cash bar) Dinner at 6:30. Ham or "Chef's Choice" \$15.00 including beverage, dessert and gratuity. The meeting will be held at the Moselem Springs Hotel on the corner of Routes 662 and 222 between Reading and Kutztown. The speaker will be ROGER WHITCOMB. Dr. Whitcomb is a recently retired professor of international relations and foreign policy studies at Kutztown where he taught for 32 years. He is a frequent op ed commentator on foreign

affairs issues for regional newspapers, radio and television. Dr. Whitcomb's most recent book, *The American Experience of Foreign Affairs: An Uncertain Tradition* "is now in a third paperback edition. He has written extensively about U.S. foreign policy, with a particular emphasis on the *historical* cultural roots of this country's approach to foreign affairs. He also wrote the critically-acclaimed book "The Cold War in Retrospect: The Formative Years."

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

JUNE 2 (Wednesday) at 70 Baldy Street, Kutztown, PA at 7:00 pm

QUARTERLY MEETING

JUNE 10 (Thursday) at the Moselem Springs Hotel (directions above) Details will be in the next newsletter.

ALLEGIANCE SUNDAY

June 13 (Sunday) Flag Day Weekend. We will celebrate Allegiance Sunday at the Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church located on the extension of Leesport Road off of Route 183 in back of the Volkswagen dealership. Berks County Daughters as well as nearby SAR Chapters will be invited to join us at this event.

Winners

Eagle Scout Scholarship

Jeffrey J. Harman Jr, from Hegins, PA is the winner of the Gov. Joseph Hiester entries from Hawk Mountain Council.

Essay: "Valley Forge: A Colonial Turnaround"

Service Project: Jeffrey created and installed a welcome sign identifying the Tri-Valley Environmental Education Center in Valley View, PA.

Jeffrey will receive a \$50.00 and an SAR Eagle Scout medal from GJH Chapter PASSAR at the annual Hawk Mountain Council Banquet on May 24th.

ROTC

Bruce Dietrich will award certificates and medals in May to an outstanding cadet from Reading, Pine Grove, Boyertown, Pottstown High Schools.

Knight Essay Contest

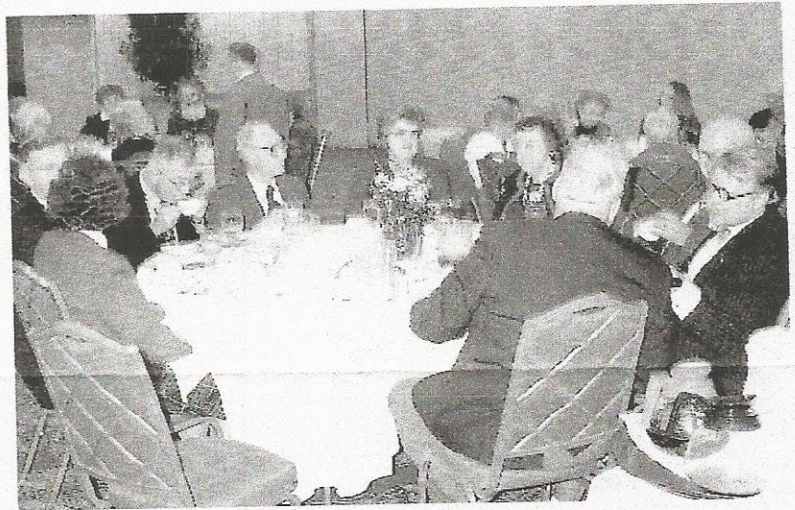
Darryl Jeffries announced Ashley Hesser as the winner of the Knight Essay Contest. She is from Wilson School District and lives in Sinking Spring.



Clowning around at the President's Day Luncheon from left to right Dr. Euclid H. Jones, President Miller (nice hat), Col. David Fitz-Enz and James Hays. Jones and Hays are HODARS.

PRESIDENT'S DAY LUNCHEON

Gov. Joseph Hiester was well represented at the annual luncheon. A total of 75 attended this event. Col. David Fitz-Enz described the Battle of Plattsburg in relation to the other distractions by the British at Fort William Henry and Washington, DC. This event will be sponsored by our chapter in 2005. A good speaker is hard to find. If you have a suggestion please see Martin Peicker.



Enjoying the President's Day Luncheon...left to right: Darryl Jeffries, Betty Dechant, Thomas Shultz, Norman and Jean Churchill, Peg and Phil Garrett, Martin Peicker and Daniel Pitman (with his back to the camera). Miles Dechant is standing at the far table.

PASSAR ANNUAL MEETING

All compatriots are invited to attend the PASSAR Annual Board Meeting to be held Friday May 7th and Saturday May 8th at The Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA. The group *Gallowglass* will perform Celtic music for the Friday evening program. The Ladies program on Saturday

is: Historic Basketry and Perishable Artifacts and will be presented by Bonnie Sanford. President Miller has information.

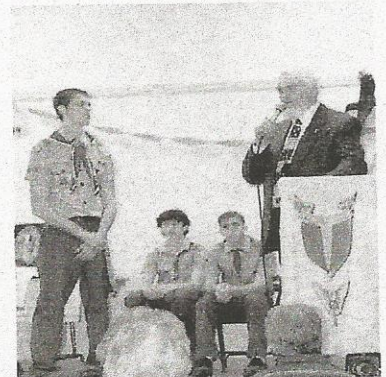
NOTES FROM FEBRUARY 11TH BOARD MEETING!

Recommendations:

1. GJH Chapter donate \$500.00 to the National Heritage Center
2. Renew our membership in Friends of the Library
3. A donation as Patron to the CAR State Conference in Scranton, PA
4. A twenty-five year certificate be awarded to Compatriot John C. Kissinger
5. A Good Citizenship Certificate be awarded to Jed Collier
6. A vote of thanks to Darryl Jeffries for Organizing the PASSAR Quarterly Board Meeting held at the Sheraton Hotel Wyomissing. Attending from GJH Chapter were: Chairman Jeffries, Dechant, Miller, Peicker, Dietrich, Houser, and Shultz. A prospective member, Al Keffer of Jeffersonville PA also attended.
7. An overview of the meeting schedule for the year was approved.

Notes:

1. Regarding the *Hiester Herald* - members are asked to contribute articles, poems, and thoughts. Input from members is necessary!
2. Contributions are being accepted for equipment to be used by our color guard. Members wishing to be on the committee to choose uniforms etc. please contact President Miller.



President Miller awarding a certificate to new Eagle Scout Michael Schroeder in Kempton, PA Feb. 25, 2004